Hiring of private property by Army, Navy and Air Force

2361. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force take on rent, private properties for residential and/or official purposes;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines, if any, for hiring and dehiring of such properties;

(c) whether a number of properties hired by Defence Establishment in Delhi/New Delhi have not been vacated after the termination of lease even though the owners wanted them for their *bona fide* needs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when such properties are likely to be vacated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the existing guidelines, houses can be hired for defence purposes, subject to willingness of the owner. After the expiry of hiring period, the houses will ordinarily be dehired. During the agreed hiring period, the house can be dehired on the request of the owner, subject to approval of the Government. Renewal of hiring for a fresh period beyond initial hiring period can be resorted to with the willingness of the owner.

(c) to (e) Properties are normally handed over to the respective owners after termination of lease Seven properties in Delhi have been sanctioned for dehiring, but could not be handed over to their respective owners for reasons of dispute of ownership, non-availability of the owner, or being under unauthorised occupation. All these buildings can be handed over as soon as authorised owner is available. One property of Air Force is to be sanctioned for dehiring.

Natural calamities in Jammu and Kashmir

2362. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy snowfall and avalanches during the winter killed many persons and damaged property in Jammu and Kashmir;